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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,620	01/06/2004	James George Allen		2451

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Frank C. Leach, Jr.
P. O. Box 22455
Lexington, KY 40522

EXAMINER

MCCARRY JR, ROBERT J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3617

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,620

Applicant(s)

ALLEN ET AL.

Examiner

Robert J. McCarry, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 18-35 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 18-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenbaum (US 4,326,750) in view of Ward (US 5,359,942).

Rosenbaum discloses a door operator for a bottom dumping vehicle. The system is comprised of a housing 136 supported by the vehicle and accommodates a double acting piston 132 that moves in a first direction and a second direction in and out of the housing 136 to open and close the door of the vehicle. The piston is operated by either compressed air or liquid and when the air or fluid is supplied or relieved the doors will open or close. A control assembly 152 operates in a first mode to and a second mode. The first mode maintains the doors in a closed position while the second mode maintains the doors in an open position. The control assembly 152 allows for a predetermined amount of air or fluid to be applied to the pistons 132 to move the doors from one position to another or to maintain the doors in either the open or closed positions. The control assembly 152 is connected to an air supply 154 by means of input ports 166 and conduits 168, 170. Two output ports 174, 176 establish communication between the control assembly 152 and the pistons 132. Once the pressure in one piston the control valve 158 operates the output ports so to then

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operate the double acting piston to move. The control assembly is further comprised of solenoids controlled by switches, which are controlled by the operator of the vehicle. The switches allow the operator to control the opening of the doors until the vehicle has reached a predetermined point.

Rosenbaum discloses the door actuator assembly as described above. However, Rosenbaum does not disclose the doors use on a railroad car. Ward discloses a railroad car with bottom dump doors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to understand that a door assembly, like that of Rosenbaum could have been applied to a railroad car, like that of Ward since the two vehicles are substantially the same construction except for the mode of travel with which they are used.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8-17 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 4, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the prior art references cannot be combined since they are different, such that one is a railroad car and the other is a road trailer. The Examiner has combined the two references based on the body construction and the hopper gate controls. It is clearly visible that the two vehicles, regardless of their mode of transportation. It is understood that whether the vehicle is moved over rails or a road

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is merely intended use since the bodies are of the same basic construction. Applicant also argues that the device does not allow for a build up of a predetermined amount of pressure. The Examiner has interpreted that since there is a conduit connecting the two chambers of the double acting piston, then the pressure would build up in one chamber before it is exhausted or overflowed to the second chamber. Therefore allowing the first chamber to fill to a predetermined amount of air pressure.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bounds (US Re. 36,685) and Friesen (US 6,416,133) both disclose types of vehicle door actuator assemblies.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J. McCarry, Jr. whose telephone number is (703)

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305-0581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joseph Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert J. McCarry Jr.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3617

RJM
June 17, 2005


S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600